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The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008

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Sports

Find out whether Saturday will be tricks or treats for USC's quarterbacks. See The Blitz

The Mix

Severed Fingers tops the list of Halloween snacks. See page 8A



The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008

VOL. 102, NO. 56 • SINCE 1908



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC President Harris Pastides shows off his new garnet and black Mini Cooper S on Greene Street yesterday at noon.

Pastides unveils eco-friendly car

USC president displays new garnet, green vehicle selected by students

Liz Segrist
NEWS EDITOR

University President Harris Pastides and the rest of campus got their first peek at Pastides's new environmentally friendly, Gamecock-supporting 2009 Mini Cooper S.

Pastides pulled onto Greene Street in front of the Russell House yesterday and spoke to students, faculty and staff surrounding the car at noon.

President Pastides said he wanted to choose something better for the environment when he decided to do this.

"I wanted them to know that environmentalism starts with the individual," Pastides said. "It's easy to think that society has to change, but it's more important to be aware that each of us can do something little or big in every decision that we make."

Pastides created a contest Aug. 1 in which students would vote to choose which car he would drive. A committee of students headed by David Ensor helped to narrow down the options.

The Daily Gamecock then created a poll on its Web site, in which around 500 students voted altogether.

The Toyota Prius received 145 votes, the Honda Civic Hybrid received 100 votes and the Mini Cooper received 239 votes.

Student Body President Andrew Gaeckle said today celebrated Pastides's



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students voted from three options on Pastides's new Gamecock-decorated car.

new car and its significance of working toward an improved environment.

"It's good for the university and the community to know that the president is taking steps to have a car that promotes sustainability," said the fourth-year international studies student.

Gaeckle said it was a small celebration yesterday.

"It was kind of exciting that Dr. Pastides is driving his new Mini Cooper and that the students decided which car he would drive," he said.

Cocky initially rode with Pastides,

and then two students won a free ride with him.

The Mini Cooper is black and white with a garnet pinstripe and a large block-C athletic logo on its roof.

"I think when they see the president in a Gamecock-colored Mini Cooper, it will remind them of my commitment to sustainability," Pastides said earlier this year. "Students will remember their president made a choice relative to the mileage and the environment."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

USC provost gets nod as GSU's new president

Mark Becker chosen to lead school after four years at USC

Wolf Stone
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The state Board of Regents named a new Georgia State University president Thursday, selecting a University of South Carolina executive vice president and provost to lead the downtown Atlanta campus.

Mark P. Becker, 50, will succeed longtime Georgia State President Carl Patton, who is retiring after 16 years. There are 27,000 students enrolled at the school, according to the University System of Georgia Web site.

"This has been an important presidential search for a star in American research universities," board chair Richard Tucker said in a news release. "Dr. Becker tremendously impressed the campus search committee and the regents with his thinking regarding Georgia State's future."

Becker will be the school's seventh president when he assumes his new post in January. This was

the second attempt to find a replacement for Patton after the finalists in the first search this summer withdrew their names for various reasons.

The other finalist in this year's search, Brooks A. Keel from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, withdrew his name from the running Friday.

Becker has been executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at USC since 2004.

"Mark has been a vital member of the administration," USC President Harris Pastides said Thursday in a news release.

"Under his leadership, the quality of our faculty has become even stronger, and scholarly productivity has increased."

Pastides had been a finalist in the first presidential search but withdrew when he was named USC's president.

Before going to South Carolina, Becker taught biostatistics at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he was also an assistant vice president for public health preparedness and emergency response and the School of Public

BECKER • 3A



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC Provost Mark Becker will become GSU's president.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE WEEK: OMEGA PHI ALPHA

Sorority serves UNICEF, Kenyan school, cancer charities with events

Jennifer Silverman
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

There is a tunnel between the Law School and the Coliseum that is repainted

every few years, but does anyone actually know who paints it? Members of the Chi chapter of Omega Phi Alpha national service sorority do. Repainting and touching up the tunnel is just one of the many service projects they do throughout each semester.

Members of Omega Phi Alpha are dedicated to bettering the community

through various community service projects focused on six areas of service each year. The sorority picks one project for each area of service, and each semester's pledge class is required to do the same.

Kate White, a fourth-year Russian student and the sorority's president, said each pledge class picks something

special to do.

"Every fall's pledge class uses Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF as their nations of the world project," White said. "They usually invite the active members to trick or treat with them."

The pledge class of Omega Phi Alpha operates as a

SERVICE • 3A



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Omega Phi Alpha sisters do numerous service projects.

in
side

Sports

Family of five in Jake Broom's seat keeping him from enjoying the game? This will not end well. See page 5B

The Mix

Stuck on Halloween without a costume, check out some last minute ideas. See page 8A

Opinion..... 6A
Crime report..... 2A
Puzzles..... 11A
Comics..... 11A
Classified..... 12A

TODAY SATURDAY



69 31



74 37



pageTWO

Today @ USC

ACE Coach meeting
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Russell House, Room 201

TOMORROW
American Red Cross
CPR class
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Leconte, Room 121

USC vs. Tennessee
7 p.m.
Williams-Brice Stadium

SUNDAY
Hill of the Lord Church
Service
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Rutledge Chapel

Sunday Group
Meditation
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
RH, Room 302

Campus Advance
meeting
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
RH Theater

Alumni Association
meeting
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RH, Room 203

Carolina Productions
meeting
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RH, Room 348

Impact Prayer meeting
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
RH, Room 302

On-Campus Worship
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
RH, Room 303

Carolina Productions
meeting
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
RH, Room 348

Garnet Circle meeting
8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
RH, Rooms 322/326

MONDAY
AAMI meeting
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
RH, Room 305

Students for Life
meeting
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RH, Room 302

QUESTION OF THE

Week

What are you being for Halloween?

“I’m going to be Homer Simpson. I just figured that it’s cheap and I already own jeans and a white T-shirt.”

— Bryan McKinney, third-year graphic design student

“I’m going to be a gypsy. My friend and I thought it would be a cute idea.”

— Daniela Ramirez, first-year biology student

“I think I’m going to be a pirate ‘cause my roommates have an extra costume, so that’s easy.”

— Alexis Lee, first-year hotel, restaurant and tourism management student

“I’m not sure yet. But I will be going out with my friends, maybe to a Halloween party.”

— Jasmine Singletory, first-year nursing student

“I guess I’m going to be a witch.”
— Jessica Hammonds, third-year history student

-Compiled by News Editor Liz Segrist

PIC OF THE DAY



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

S.H.A.R.E. President Jane Holman, left, and Mariel Razlan pass out condoms and fliers in front of the Russell House Wednesday to promote sexual health.

Local

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford said yesterday he'll let \$488 million in state spending cuts go into effect and carve deeply into health care and college spending plans, and he warned that more budget cuts are coming in the months and years ahead.

The state's \$7 billion budget ran into problems when it went into effect July 1 as the economy continued to sour and consumers spent and earned less than needed to keep state government in the black.

"I am going to let the bill go through without signature. I'm not going to make any amendment to it. There will be no vetoes," Sanford said to reporters yesterday afternoon. The cuts go into effect after midnight Thursday.

Sanford said that any veto would add to state spending in the face of more expected bad economic news.

"I believe very firmly that we're in the first round of budget cuts in what will be a multiyear round of budget cuts. So our take was that we would have many different bites at the apple," Sanford said.

The state Education Department is already trying to figure out how to deal with the first bite at its apple: \$9.1 million in cuts. Nearly half are among operations at its Columbia headquarters and the rest fall on school bus and instructional material costs and other areas. Meanwhile, schools are losing more than \$100 million because of slowing sales tax collections that help cover costs of add-ons like gifted and talented programs.

At the Education Department's headquarters, a 13 percent cut in personnel costs is mandated.

"How we're going to take that is something we're still working on," agency spokesperson Jim Foster said. The agency must figure out how to do that without cutting mandated state programs.

National

SAN FRANCISCO — A California man suspected of mailing more than 120 hoax anthrax letters to media outlets was interviewed previously by the FBI after a similar mailing in 2007, but he was not charged.

Marc M. Keyser, 66, was interviewed by the FBI in January 2007 for allegedly sending a package containing a small aerosol can labeled "Anthrax," along with a compact disc, to the Sacramento News and Review newspaper, according to a criminal complaint filed yesterday in federal court.

Keyser said to agents then that he was using the mailing as a publicity stunt for a novel he had penned, and "to model what would happen if terrorist were to use anthrax ... to show the amount of anthrax a terrorist might spray into the air conditioning system in a shopping mall." The can did not contain anthrax.

Agents warned Keyser that he violated federal law and could be prosecuted, but they didn't arrest him. Agent Filip Colfescu said in the complaint that Keyser at the time apologized for the hoax "and told agents they should not worry, that he would not be doing it again."

The FBI did not immediately return a message seeking comment about the 2007 interviews.

Keyser was arrested without incident at his home in Sacramento Wednesday and is being charged with three counts of sending hoax anthrax threats by mail. At least some of the packages had Keyser's return address on them, and agents found 11 more packets in Keyser's car, according to the complaint.

None of the packets has so far tested positive for hazardous material, the agency said.

Keyser was scheduled to appear in federal court yesterday afternoon. It wasn't known yesterday whether he had a lawyer.

The investigation began after The Atlantic magazine received a letter Monday. The Star Tribune of Minneapolis and the Boston Herald received similar letters yesterday.

Media outlets in North Carolina, California and Washington state also have received the letters, as has Rep. George Radanovich and a Sacramento McDonald's. Offices were evacuated in some cases.

World

BAGHDAD — Iraq wants to eliminate any chance U.S. forces will stay here after 2011 under a proposed security pact and to expand Iraqi legal jurisdiction over U.S. troops until then, a close ally of the prime minister said Thursday.

Those demands, which were presented to U.S. officials this week, could derail the deal — delivering a diplomatic blow to Washington in the final weeks of the Bush administration.

Failure to reach an agreement before year's end could force a suspension of American military operations, and U.S. commanders have been warning Iraqi officials that could endanger security improvements.

The current draft, hammered out in months of tortuous negotiations, would have U.S. soldiers leave Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011, unless the two governments agreed to an extension for training and supporting Iraqi security forces.

But Ali al-Adeeb, a member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's inner circle, said the government wants that possibility excluded by language adding finality to the end of 2011 date.

"The Iraqi side wants to remove any mention of a possible extension of U.S. troops, fearing that the existing clause might be subject to misinterpretation or could bear different interpretation," he told The Associated Press.

Otherwise, he said the U.S. might demand an extension "depending on their evaluation" of the security situation and the state of readiness within Iraq's army and police. U.S. officials have privately suggested 2012 is too early for Iraqi forces to be truly ready to maintain order.

The draft also gives Iraqi courts limited jurisdiction over U.S. troops, allowing them to be prosecuted by Iraqis only if they are accused of major crimes committed off post and off duty.

Al-Adeeb said the Iraqis want to add a provision for a joint U.S.-Iraqi committee to decide whether U.S. soldiers accused of such crimes were on authorized missions.

— The Associated Press

Crime Report

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Malicious injury to personal property, 1:45 p.m.

Russell House, 1400 Greene St.
An unknown suspect attempted to cut the victim's bicycle lock and steal the victim's bicycle. The lock was not cut all the way through, but the locking mechanism was damaged.
Estimated damages: \$20.
Reporting officer: A. Mitchell

Petit larceny, 8:30 p.m.

East Quad, 400 Blossom St.
An unknown suspect stole the victim's blue moped. The victim said the moped was locked to the bike rack with a metal lock, which was also missing.
Estimated value: \$970.

Reporting officer: A. Mitchell

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Malicious injury to personal property, 1:15 a.m.

Bates House, 1423 Whaley St.
An unknown suspect began hitting a vending machine after he said that it ate his money. The suspect then began striking the machine with a hammer attempting to break the glass. Digital images were taken and the suspect was issued a student discipline.
Estimated damages: \$20.
Reporting officer: N. Peter

— Compiled by Staff Writer Kyle Moores

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sorority within a sorority. Each pledge class has its own executive officer board as well as separate projects for each area of service, and each pledge must also have 15 hours of service before becoming an active member at the end of the semester.

The six areas of service are: nations of the world, community at large, university community, sisters of the sorority, mental health and the national president's project.

The national president's project is usually related to a topic of interest for chapters of Omega Phi Alpha. For 2007, the projects centered on domestic violence. This year, the project topic is women's cancer.

While the sisters typically pick a new project each year, there are a few permanent ones as well.

One of those projects falls into the nations of the world area of service and involves raising money for the Shikokho School in Kenya. Last year, Omega Phi Alpha raised enough money to buy the school two computers.

This year the sorority's goal is to raise enough money

for the school to get running water. The club has already raised \$700 toward this goal through canning and bake sales, White said.

Omega Phi Alpha also participates in smaller scale projects, such as volunteering at the Pets Inc. animal shelter in West Columbia. Pets Inc. is connected to a pet store that provides proceeds to the shelter. The sorority chose this shelter because of the no-kill policy that tends to cause an overflow.

This year, the sorority is participating in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk. Past sisters of the sorority projects have included Make-a-Wish for a sister. For this project, each girl writes down a wish, and a member of the sorority grants the wish. Wishes have varied from a cup of coffee to a bouquet of flowers for a sister.

If you are interested in joining Omega Phi Alpha, you can e-mail the sorority at omegapa@gwm.sc.edu. The next pledge class will be formed at the beginning of the spring semester.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

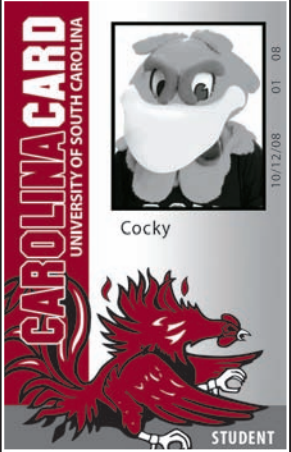
Health dean. He also held various academic and administrative positions at several other universities.

Becker has a doctorate in statistics from The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa., and a bachelor of science in mathematics from Towson State University in Towson, Md.

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ECONOMY ● 7A

Amidst financial concerns, consumers spend less money

U.S. citizens restrict economic habits, scared by stock market woes

Jeannine Aversa
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scared and out of money, Americans stopped buying everything from cars to corn flakes in the July-September quarter, ratcheting back spending by the largest amount in 28 years and jolting the national economy into what could be the most painful recession in

decades. With retailers bracing for a grim holiday buying season, the economy isn't just slowing — it's actually shrinking, the government confirmed yesterday. It reported that the nation's gross domestic product declined at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the year's third quarter and consumers' disposable income took its biggest drop on record. In simpler words, "The train went off the tracks," said Brian Bethune, economist at

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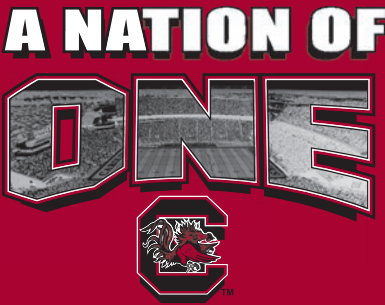
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Exxon Mobil Corp. announces largest ever U.S. quarterly profits

Despite failing economy, energy company posts record-breaking gains

John Porretto
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest publicly traded oil company, reported income yesterday that shattered its own record for the biggest profit from operations by a U.S. corporation, earning \$14.83 billion in the third quarter.

Yet numbers contained within the company's most recent financial report revealed production numbers that continue to sag, and shares slipped 3 percent in midday trading.

The Irving, Texas-based company has reported unprecedented back-to-back quarters, the end of the most recent coinciding with a rapid plunge in crude prices. Benchmark oil prices fell another \$2.91 to \$64.59 Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, about 56 percent off record highs in July.

Exxon said net income jumped nearly 58 percent to \$2.86 a share in the July-September period. That compares with \$9.41 billion, or \$1.70 a share, a year ago.

The previous record for U.S. corporate profit was set in the last quarter, when Exxon Mobil earned \$11.68 billion.

Revenue rose 35 percent to \$137.7 billion. On average, analysts expected the company to earn \$2.39 per share in the latest quarter on revenue of \$131.4 billion.

Exxon Mobil's results got a boost of \$1.62 billion in the most-recent quarter from the sale of a natural gas transportation business in Germany. It also took a special, after-tax charge of \$170 million for a punitive damages award related to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Excluding those items, third-quarter earnings amounted to \$13.38 billion — nearly 15 percent

above its previous profit record from the second quarter.

As expected, Exxon Mobil reaped massive earnings from its exploration and production, or upstream, arm, where net income rose 48 percent to \$9.35 billion. Higher oil and natural gas prices propelled results, even though production was down from the third quarter a year ago.

Oil producers are coming off a quarter during which crude prices reached an all-time high of \$147.27 — and their profits have reflected it.

Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Europe's largest oil company, said yesterday its third-quarter net profit jumped 22 percent from a year ago, also despite falling production.

Crude prices have tumbled from summer highs, and the global economic malaise has raised questions about energy demand at least into 2009.

Some companies, especially smaller producers, are scaling back spending on new exploration and production projects because of the uncertainty, though analysts say that its less likely to happen at the well-heeled giants like Exxon Mobil.

"Our integrated business portfolio, strong operational performance and financial discipline continued to allow us to capture the benefits of the commodity price environment," Exxon Mobil investor relations chief David Rosenthal said on a call with analysts. "Despite recent volatility in the financial, commodity and credit markets, the fundamentals of Exxon Mobil's business remain strong."

A not-so-bright note was Exxon's output, which once again was below year-ago levels.

The company, which produces 3 percent of the world's oil, said production on an oil-equivalent basis was down 8 percent from a year ago — a concern given it generates more than two-thirds of its earnings from oil and gas production.

Exxon cited disruptions caused by hurricanes Gustav and Ike, production-sharing contracts and increased maintenance activity. It said damage repairs and lower volumes from the storms is expected to reduce fourth-quarter earnings by about \$500 million.



Don Ryan / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Consumers continue to purchase large amounts of gas, as seen when Exxon Mobil Corp. set quarterly profit record for U.S. corporations at \$14.83 billion, announced yesterday.

Earnings at Exxon Mobil's refining and marketing unit were \$3.01 billion, up 50 percent from a year ago. Exxon saw margins improve on refined products, largely because of the drop in crude as the quarter progressed.

The company said it expects to spend about \$25 billion on capital projects this year — the lower end of previous guidance of \$25 billion to \$30 billion.

Exxon Mobil said it bought 109 million shares of its common stock in the quarter at a cost of \$8.7 billion. Roughly \$8 billion of that amount was dedicated to reducing the number of shares outstanding; the balance was used to offset shares issued as part of the company's benefit plans.

Setting U.S. profit records has become commonplace for the oil giant.

In fact, if one-time gains like bankruptcy settlements and spinoffs are stripped away from other companies, Exxon Mobil owns the record for the top 10 most-profitable quarters for a U.S. company, as well as the largest annual profit.

United Airlines' UAL Corp. reported first-quarter profit of \$22.9 billion in 2006, but that reflected a bankruptcy settlement, not true profit. The airline would have posted a \$306 million loss if those gains were stripped out.

Company shares fell \$2.28 to \$72.37 in midday trading. Their 52-week range is \$56.51 to \$96.12.

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Non-citizen immigrants assist polling despite voting ineligibility

Those unable to cast ballots find ways to help with election

Juliana Barbassa
The Associated Press

From Florida to California, they're working hard on the upcoming election — knocking on doors in ethnic neighborhoods, manning the phones in myriad languages and distributing political flyers. But come Tuesday, they won't vote. They can't: they're not citizens.

The excitement that has made American voter registration numbers soar has trickled deep into the country's immigrant population. But almost two-thirds of the 37.5 million foreign-born people in the United States have not taken the oath of allegiance, and are shut out from casting a ballot.

Non-citizen immigrants, legal or not, are putting their time and their effort where their vote would be.

"There are a lot of people who want to be voters one day, but it can take a lot of time," said Kishan Putta, national director of Indians for McCain. "They do want to get involved. They're calling, wanting to participate."

There have been no efforts to monitor how many volunteers in union halls, ethnic organizations and campaign offices are not citizens. But leaders of immigration advocacy organizations say this population is stepping up.

"There are millions out there who have not yet become citizens, who need somewhere to plug in, to become part of the process

that gets those who can out to vote," said Efrain Escobedo, director of voter engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, which has used non-citizens to turn out new voters in states where Hispanics could have a big say in the presidential contest.

There are approximately 12.1 million legal permanent residents and 11.8 illegal immigrants in the country. The concerns that are driving some of them to do election work are largely the same ones energizing Americans — the sagging economy, fear of unemployment, worries about health care and the quality of schools.

"These are things that keep you up at night," said Hernan Cortez, 30, a Salvadoran who has been knocking on doors to get out the vote in Aurora, Colo.

Cortez has two children, a wife who works nights at a hospital, and mortgage payments that ballooned from \$1000 a month to \$1,300 in January. He is not a citizen — the nearly \$1,400 in fees that he would have to pay for himself and his wife put naturalization beyond his means.

"I wish I could go out to vote," he said. "Instead I talk to people about how this election is going to affect our community."

Since much of their energy is focused on other recent immigrants — a fast-growing population that has added hundreds of thousands of new voters in swing states — non-citizens are in a position to make a difference, experts say.

When McCain supporter Ai Thien Le, 57, takes her seat at a Virginia phonebank to

encourage other Vietnamese immigrants to cast a ballot, she knows every call can help tip the numbers in this battleground state. "It's the only way our voices can be heard and our issues addressed," said Le, who has been living in the United States since 2004 — not long enough to qualify for citizenship.

Foreign nationals who are not legal permanent residents are forbidden from making contributions, but there are no laws against non-citizens volunteering in political campaigns, said Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. And the campaigns welcome the help.

"We don't ask if volunteers are citizens or not," said Hessa Fernandez, a spokeswoman for the McCain campaign. "Our door is open to everyone who wants to be part of the work."

The non-citizens' desires to influence the outcome of the election draws little opposition from advocates of immigration control, as long as they do not vote.

"It is teaching them about democracy without giving them rights that should be exclusive to citizens," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors tighter immigration control.

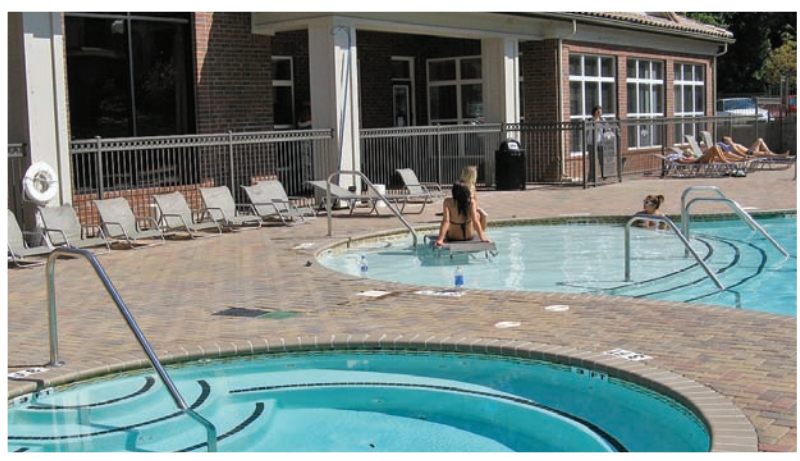
But some say that immigrants who entered the country illegally should be kept out of the political process. "They start out with a lack of legitimacy," said Stanley Renshon, a fellow at the center and a political scientist at the City University of New York's

NON-CITIZENS ● 7A

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Halloween
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Holiday isn't excuse to dress inappropriately, be falling out of outfit

While flipping through my junk mail the other day, I came across something from a local Halloween shop advertising various costumes and accessories. I



MARCY BOZEK
Third-year business student

casually flipped through it and nothing really caught my eye until I reached the back page. It was filled with “sexy” costumes for women. I didn’t even know that a page’s worth of sexy costumes existed. I was well aware of some of the clichés — the sexy nurse, cop, French maid, Playboy-esque bunny, etc. — but I had never even thought about a referee, aviator or racecar driver. And certainly not a sexy bumblebee, Girl Scout or Hogwarts witch.

I can understand why someone would want to wear a sexy costume. After all, the best part of Halloween is dressing up and getting to be something you’re not, such as a vampire, zombie, ghost or other ghoul. Of course, you don’t have to be something scary. You can be a pretty princess, a funny clown or a lovable dog. You can even do something creative, like wrapping yourself in tin foil to be left-overs. One of my personal favorites was when two of my friends went as Chuck Noland (Tom Hanks in Castaway) and Wilson — the volleyball. Yes, she went as a volleyball. It was amazing.

Now, I’m not saying that wearing a sexy costume makes someone a bad person. Just because someone looks like a slut doesn’t mean she is. I have a lot of good friends who will be donning sexy costumes, and I don’t think that they’re bad people or sluts. And I’ll admit it, some “sexy” costumes aren’t even all that revealing. There’s just a little leg here, a little midriff there, maybe some chest. It’s not anything that you wouldn’t see on an average warm day while walking around campus.

But when a girl wears something her breasts are popping out of while her butt is barely covered — probably causing her to pull a Britney Spears when getting in or out of a car — she looks trashy. I don’t care if it’s a regular day, her birthday or Halloween.

Some will read this and say that I don’t fully embrace the idea of Halloween, that I just don’t get it. On the contrary, I totally get it. It’s fun to dress up, and it’s fun to be sexy. But just because you’re having fun doesn’t mean you don’t look bad. And, of course, there will be guys who will read this and completely disagree with me. But why are they disagreeing?

Are they disagreeing because they genuinely don’t think girls in sexy costumes look slutty, or because they’re looking forward to enjoying the view on Halloween night?



BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

End of election means rest for all

Nov. 5 brings unique reconciliation period in American politics

On Nov. 4, Americans will go to the polls to make their selection for president. It will be a historic day, a day that will shape the fate of the nation. But for a lot of Americans, it will probably be more important for another reason: It’ll be the day campaigning ends.



RICHARD WOOD
Third-year history student

And not a moment too soon. Modern elections are marathons, unofficially starting years ahead of polling day. The winning candidate has to survive a gauntlet to make it to the finish, and there’s rarely any consolation prize for the loser. But it’s not just candidates that elections are tough on — it’s also the electorate. We are bombarded with television and radio advertisements, with campaign signs and election news. Even bastions of escapism like sports are affected, as candidates

make appearances at every sporting event they can. We can’t get rest.

So it’s no wonder a lot of us are ready for it to be all over. Now I know what some of you are thinking: Aren’t you forgetting that elections are the most important part of democratic governance? That getting huge swaths of the population interested in politics is a good thing? Both of these points are good ones. But for those who see the end of the campaign season as the end of the average person’s political involvement, who wish the excitement of the campaigns could continue indefinitely, they are forgetting a critical part of democracy: reconciliation.

All politicians like to make fine speeches about unity, solidarity and “bringing everyone together.” The fact that George W. Bush promised to be a “uniter, not a divider” before his first term should give an idea of the rift between the ideal and the reality. But the end of every election actually brings about a remarkable show of national unity. The partisanship, the debating, the fighting and the pure passion that reach their

climax just before election day come to a sudden end, and people go back to their daily lives. In many countries, the end of an election is the beginning of riots or an attempted coup by the losing party. But in America, the end of the election usually produces relative calm.

It may seem strange, but the ability of Americans to follow long periods of political engagement with long periods of inactivity, to go from wearing their party affiliation on their sleeve to keeping it entirely to themselves, is a great feature of our democracy. Candidates dream of uniting the whole country in supporting them, but how hard is it to unite when everyone agrees? The fact that more than 40 percent of the country routinely agrees to be governed by their opponents is a far greater thing. And it’s as healthy to want elections to be over as it is to get wrapped up in them. Because it’s the ability to forget the arguments of the campaign, and to accept the election result no matter what it is, that lets our government work.

Elder abuse deserves punishment

Troubled teen should get greater sentence for disturbing actions

The city of Lake Worth, located in South Florida about an hour north of Miami, is most commonly known for its once-famous fishing pier and independent vendors



MICHAEL WUNDERLICH
Second-year print journalism student

peddling unique items to locals and tourists alike. Following this past Tuesday, though, a shadow of violence and blind anger now blankets the town where, according to the city motto, “the tropics begin.”

Eighteen-year-old Michael Alfinez, a resident of Lake Worth, was sentenced to 18 months in a youthful offender facility and three years of probation after pleading guilty to charges of abusing an elderly person, among other crimes.

In a horrific display of violence that’s seeping into the youthful culture at a rising rate, Alfinez coaxed his 85-year-

old grandmother into posing for a video titled “Gangstas & Thugs,” making statements like “This is for all the pigs” while brandishing a semi-automatic pistol.

Alfinez went on to describe his grandmother as senile with memory problems.

The behavior of Alfinez is disturbing, as the fact that a teenager still old enough to be in high school manipulating an old woman said to be “senile” shows behavior that should be universally condemned.

I doubt this boy — and I deliberately use the word “boy” because he obviously has no clue what the conduct of a man entails — was ever taught to embrace gun violence and disrespect his elders by his parents.

This type of behavior can only come from one’s surroundings, whether it be through peers, misguided advice from outsiders or popular media that glorify “thug” culture.

Alfinez continued to admit to discharging a .22-caliber pistol from a car window six times, as well as taping himself and a few friends smashing cars and Christmas decorations, lauding their destruction.

I believe there is no

excuse for such behavior. Boys like Alfinez should be given an instant sentence of at least five years in prison.

There’s no room in society for this type of attitude that glorifies violence and advocates criminal activity toward personal property and fellow man.

There is absolutely no value to be found in the conduct of people like Alfinez. There is no respect, no trust or loyalty to be found amongst Alfinez’s kind, those who view gun violence as the first and only means of solving problems, whose heroes most often are deceased rappers by way of gun violence or movie villains such as the notorious “Scarface.”

If we are to make it safe in America for citizens to walk their own neighborhood sidewalks without worrying about being gunned down by the thug next door, children like Alfinez must be immediately swept off the street not just for months at a time, but for years, so they’ll be given the chance to kick off their mental training wheels in the state penitentiary and maybe realize the evils of their actions.

The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

Keep safety in mind for party situations

After 30 days of buildup in department stores and after a week of costume parties, the pinnacle of October is upon us.

That’s right, it’s Halloween.

To kids, it means a night to dress up like superheroes, monsters and princesses and go trick-or-treating around the neighborhood. For homeowners, All Hallows Eve is a night when the doorbell rings incessantly.

For many college students, Oct. 31 is the high point of more than a week of college partying.

Nearly every night this week, there has been a big party, and Halloween night will be no different.

But after a week of tricks and treats, just remember to stay safe.

Halloween is about having fun, but your personal safety is of utmost importance.

While you are making your way to that epic costume party, remember to keep full attention on the road. There are bound to be kids trick-or-treating.

If you plan on drinking once you get there, plan on either getting a designated driver or packing some pajamas so you can spend the night. Make sure you watch out for your friends as well.

So whether you are throwing on that Whitney Houston costume for the fifth time or scrambling for a last minute idea, make sure that you keep party safety in mind.

Happy Halloween.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

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RICHARD DREW / The Associated Press

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

ECONOMY ● Continued from 3A

IHS global Insight. Wall Street took comfort in the fact that it wasn't even worse. The Dow Jones industrials rose 190 points. But economists say tougher times are still ahead. Believing consumers are cutting back even more right now, they predict a much larger economic decline — anywhere from a 1 to 2 percent rate — during the current October-December period. That would meet a classic definition of a recession — two straight quarters of shrinking GDP. Not that there's any real doubt now. Clobbered by pink slips, shrinking nest eggs and falling home values, consumers are holding ever tighter to their wallets. The new report said Americans' disposable income fell at an annual rate of 8.7 percent in the quarter, the largest in records dating back to 1947. The dismal news came just days before the nation picks the next president. Whether Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain wins the White House, he will inherit a deeply troubled economy and a record-high budget deficit that could cramp his spending plans. Each side said the new figures supported its political case. "The decline in GDP didn't happen by accident — it is a direct result of the Bush administration's trickle down, Wall Street first, Main Street last policies that John McCain has embraced for the last eight years," Obama said. He pledged to provide tax relief to middle class families and help people facing foreclosure. Pointing to the economy's sad state, Doug Holtz-Eakin, senior policy adviser for the McCain campaign, shot back that "Barack Obama would accelerate this dangerous course." McCain said his tax cuts, free-trade policies and help to struggling homeowners would help turn things around. More than in recent recessions, consumers — the lifeblood of the economy — are bearing the brunt of the country's housing, banking and other ailments. The third-quarter decline

in their spending was the first in 17 years, and the 3.1 percent annualized cutback was staggering — the most since the spring of 1980 when the country was in the grip of what some call the worst downturn since the Great Depression. Walloped by such a huge pullback, the economy toppled into negative territory. The latest reading on GDP, which measures the value of all goods produced within the United States, showed a rapid turn from the 2.8 percent growth rate logged in the second quarter. The new figure was the worst since the 1.4 percent rate of decline in the third quarter of 2001, when the nation was suffering through its most recent recession. Democrats on Capitol Hill are pushing for another economic stimulus package and are weighing whether to hold a lame duck session before the new president takes office. Under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike, the White House defended giving billions of bailout dollars to banks that now are rewarding shareholders and executives — or even buying other banks — rather than making loans to consumers and businesses. Ed Lazear, the Council of Economic Advisers chairman, said the government is keeping close tabs on banks' use of the money, but he also said normal activities such as paying performance-related salaries or distributing dividends are allowed under the law Congress passed. White House press secretary Dana Perino said that "not only rich people get dividend payments," which can form a significant portion of income for retirees and mutual funds. A collapse of the housing market and locked-up lending have produced the worst financial crisis to hit the country in more than 70 years. To cushion the fallout, the Fed slashed interest rates Wednesday by half a percentage point to 1 percent, a level seen only once before in the last half century.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke has warned that the country's economic weakness could last for some time — even if the government's unprecedented \$700 billion financial bailout package and other steps do succeed in getting financial and credit markets to operate more normally. "As of now, most forecasts indicate that we will experience a serious recession, perhaps comparable to the recession of the early 1980s, but nothing like the Great Depression," said Simon Johnson, former chief economist to the International Monetary Fund and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. During the 1980-1982 recession, unemployment topped 10 percent. Other analysts, including Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, predicts the downturn will be much more severe than the 2001 and 1990-1991 recessions but not as bad — in terms of unemployment or lost growth — as the 1980s one. The unemployment rate, now at 6.1 percent, could hit 8 percent or higher next year. The Labor Department said yesterday that new claims for unemployment benefits last week held steady at 479,000, an elevated figure that continued to point to troubles in the jobs market. In the third quarter, consumers cut back on purchases of cars, furniture, household appliances, clothes and almost everything else. Businesses cut back, too, trimming spending on equipment and software at a 5.5 percent pace, the most since the first quarter of 2002. And home builders slashed spending at a 19.1 percent pace, marking the 11th straight quarterly cutback. Slower growth for U.S. exports — reflecting less demand from overseas buyers who are coping with their own economic problems — also factored into the weak GDP report. Exports grew at a 5.9 percent pace in the third quarter, less than half the second quarter's 12.3 percent rate.

S.C. license plates raise questions about church, state relationship

Christian-themed tags cause lawsuit, opposing views

Page Ivey
The Associated Press

South Carolina started taking online orders yesterday for Christian-themed license plates that are the subject of a lawsuit by a group that tries to keep religion out of government.

The new plates depict a stained-glass window with a cross on the left hand side and the words "I Believe" across the top. The Motor Vehicles Department said in a news release that it will begin making the plates after it gets at least 400 prepaid applications.

Typically a sponsoring organization can put up \$4,000 to start production of specialty plates, but that doesn't apply in this case because the Legislature proposed the tags, said Jean Smolen, spokesperson for the department.

If the department does not get enough orders, the plates will not be made and those

who did send in money will get refunds.

Lt. Gov. André Bauer pledged this summer to pay the deposit up front and get reimbursed after the tags began selling. Bauer helped push the measure through the General Assembly and said it gives people a way to express their beliefs.

But the agency said such sponsorship is not possible, and Bauer said yesterday he thinks there is enough interest among residents to meet the 400-order threshold.

"I plan to buy one," Bauer said, adding that he will put it on the 1957 GMC van he inherited from his grandfather, whom he described as very religious.

"A lot of people can't understand what the hype is about," Bauer said. "Nobody is mandated to have this tag ... It's an option."

Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State sued state officials on behalf of two Christian pastors, a humanist pastor and a rabbi in South Carolina, along with the Hindu American Foundation.

The group's executive director, Barry Lynn, said until the state began taking orders, some could argue his group's lawsuit was premature.

"Now the court can find a state-produced Christian license plate to violate the Constitution," Lynn said.

People who want to order the special tag can pay \$5 in an online transaction to cover the additional cost of making the "I Believe" plates. The usual annual vehicle registration fee of \$24 would also apply.

Lynn said his group would not have protested if the plates had been requested by a private organization willing to sponsor it like the state's other specialty tags.

A similar proposal in Florida failed before South Carolina passed its measure this summer. Lynn said other states might be watching the outcome of the South Carolina case before deciding whether to try for their own religious-themed license plates.

"There has not been a wave of initiatives to put more Christian plates out there," Lynn said.

NON-CITIZENS ● Continued from 5A

Graduate Center. Non-citizen volunteers make powerful advocates because they identify with the voters on their rosters. Candida Garcia, a Nicaraguan immigrant and legal permanent resident who cleans hallways at the University of Miami, has been putting her rapid-fire Spanish to work for Sen. Barack Obama, knocking on doors to get out the Latino vote in Miami. Her husband's hours at a kitchen cabinet factory have been slashed, and her

13-year-old daughter, born in the U.S., has no health insurance. "We need a radical change in this country," she said. Many hope their work will counteract the lack of participation that has undercut their community's electoral clout. Ana Herrera goes door to door in the farmworker community of Avenal, Calif., where she is applying for residency. "People say, 'Why?' They say, 'What difference will it make?' They say, 'I have no time,'" said Herrera, walking past whole blocks where there are no registered voters. "I tell them, if we don't help make the decisions, we're going to always be living with decisions made by others," she said.

HPV FACTS: #9

AN ESTIMATED 8 OUT OF 10 WOMEN WILL GET HPV IN THEIR LIFETIME

HPV.COM

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LAST-MINUTE COSTUME TIME CRUNCH...

Easy, inexpensive outfits require little effort, provide good solution for procrastinators still in search of costume on Halloween night.

Ashley Warren

THE DAILY GAMECOCK

One easy and fun last minute getup only requires you to paint your face white: a mime. To complete the look, wear black pants and a black and white striped shirt (horizontal stripes unless you want to be confused with a referee). This outfit gives you the opportunity to make creepy and strange movements all night and gives you an excuse not to respond to unwanted conversation.

If you are looking for a costume to show off your Gamecock pride, grab two friends and be "Carolina born, Carolina bred and Carolina dead." All three of you should be in your most Cocky-ed out game day attire. For "Carolina born," wear a USC bib (you may want to cut one out of construction paper and decorate it with markers), carry around your drink in a bottle and even wear a diaper over your pants if you wish. "Carolina bred" simply tapes a couple of slices of bread to his or her USC shirt. "Carolina dead" thinks up a way to die and uses fake blood to achieve that realistic quality.

Party City, along with most costume shops, sells solid-color bodysuits. Buy a nude one of these, wear it under the coat you will surely need in this weather, and you are a nudist. This costume is perfect for shocking people, as every time you briefly open up your coat, somebody is bound to catch it just out of the corner of the eye and assume you actually are naked.

Want to show off your moves on the dance floor this Halloween? Wear all black, and paint your face black as well. Tape a neon-colored piece of construction paper to your back and wear your iPod. Start dancing and swinging your hair around, and you are the iPod commercial.

Another easy costume is to be a tourist. Throw on a Hawaiian shirt, some socks and sandals and your sunglasses. You can carry around your camera and fanny-pack or map if you want to go all out.

Why not go as everybody's favorite puzzle, a Sudoku? This costume is a bit more time-consuming than the rest, but very easy to make. Simply cut two large cardboard squares (or just use the sides of a box), punch holes in them for string to tie so that the pieces hang off your shoulders across your front and back and then draw the puzzle on them. When drawing the Sudoku, make sure to use a ruler and color the nine larger boxes darker than the nine smaller boxes within the large ones. Also, make sure to use a real puzzle as your model so that if people decide to solve you they will be able to finish.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Unique holiday treats offer tasty alternative

Original recipes give relief from ordinary trick-or-treat candy

Marin Mueller
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Tonight, thousands of men, women and children will learn firsthand that when it comes to Halloween

candy, it's completely possible to have too much of a good thing. As delicious as the first adorably tiny piece of chocolate may seem, the marginal return of each piece quickly diminishes.

(Don't believe me? Just ask Milton Friedman.) Thankfully, there are a few treats that never get old, ranging from succulent classics to more unusual fare. So, when you can't

stand to see another bite-sized Kit Kat, turn to some of these classics to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

CINNAMON ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon egg white
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cups raw pumpkin seeds

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Beat the egg white with a whisk until soft and foamy.
Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well.
Spread out on a lined cookie sheet, and bake for 13 to 15 minutes.
Let seeds cool before eating.
Note: To keep the seeds fresh, store them in an airtight container

Let cool on pan 5 minutes or until coating is crisp.

Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

SEVERED FINGERS

Ingredients:

- 10-ounce bag pretzel rods, broken in half
- 2 cups white or milk chocolate chips, melted
- Red tube icing

Dip the broken end of the pretzel in chocolate, covering about 2/3 of the pretzel rod.
After the chocolate has dried, put a dab of red icing on the tip of the pretzel to form a fingernail.

Note: Eat these the same day they're made so they don't get stale!

Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

CARAMEL CINNAMON CORN

Ingredients:

- 8 cups air-popped popcorn
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 teaspoons margarine
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Spray cookie sheet or shallow pan with nonstick cooking spray.
Place popcorn in a large bowl.
Stir honey, margarine and cinnamon in small saucepan over low heat until margarine is melted and mixture is smooth
Immediately pour over popcorn.
Make sure popcorn is evenly covered, and pour onto prepared pan.
Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until coating is golden brown.
Let cool on pan 5 minutes or until coating is crisp.

Alan Tauber /MCT Campus

Bloody Halloween Bashes In Columbia

Flying Saucer Halloween
Happy Hour
4 p.m., free
Flying Saucer, 931 Senate St.

Five Points Pub
Hollywood Halloween
8 p.m., \$5
Five Points Pub,
2020 Devine St.

Halloween at Jillian's
free
Jillian's, 800 Gervais St.

Blue Martini
Sinners and Saints Party
free
The Blue Martini, 808 Lady St.

Art Bar Halloween
Extravaganza
9 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

Van Helsing's House of
Vampires
free
Wild Wing Café, 729 Lady St.

Scream IV
9 p.m., free
Tabu, 700 Gervais St.

Pirates of the Carolinas with
DJ Perry-A
8 p.m., free
Liberty Taproom,
828 Gervais St.

Wet Willie's Halloween Night
10 p.m., free
Wet Willie's, 800 Gervais St.

The Whig Halloween Bash
9 p.m., free
The Whig, 1200 Main St.

Local venue hosts weekly fright fest

NBT’s little-known Midnight Murderama provides post-concert entertainment with scary movies, fun social atmosphere

Shelby Sachs
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Do you like watching scary movies? Do you enjoy hanging out with friends or meeting new ones? Are you normally bored with nothing to do on Sunday nights?

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, then there is a solution for you: Midnight Murderama, hosted by New Brookland Tavern.

Every Sunday, New Brookland Tavern hosts a horror movie night at midnight free of charge. The Sunday after Halloween is no exception.

For those people that are not worn out from all the weekend’s Halloween festivities, come out a little before midnight with all of your friends and enjoy a movie.

This Sunday, “Night of the Living Dead” will be playing, and with Halloween just a few days before, it is sure to be something that you will not want to miss.

Although a lot of “locals” come out every Sunday, many people do not know about these movie nights at all, so fresh faces are always welcomed and encouraged to come.

Riley Lab, who goes to Midnight Murderama often, enjoys watching the movies with friends.

“You watch cheesy horror B-movies and make fun of them,” said Lab.

When first stepping into New Brookland Tavern during their “Midnight Murderama” extravaganza, you will notice the large projection screen, tons of seating, a bar and pool table and numerous people hanging out until the movie starts.

Once the movie comes on, however, several of the people gather around and watch it while others head to the bar to socialize and drink.

Lizzie Cuthbertson, a third-year studio art photography student enjoys coming to the movie every Sunday.

“I work at House Coffee [next door to New Brookland Tavern] and I get off right before the movie starts,” said Cuthbertson. “You don’t necessarily have to watch the movie, but [they are] totally gnarly.”

As if watching cheesy horror B-movies doesn’t make you want to come out badly enough, then going to a concert, listening to some awesome bands and then going to watch a movie definitely should be



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Concertgoers can enjoy free horror movies after the show every Sunday at midnight at the New Brookland Tavern.

a good enough reason.

Sunday, punk/hardcore bands Bouncing Souls, Strike Anywhere, The Casting Out and Gimme Drugs will be performing. Doors open at 6 p.m., and tickets are \$16 the day of the show.

New Brookland Tavern employee Rob Saltzman said he believes that everyone should come out and experience Midnight Murderama at least once, and that hopefully they will come back again.

“Not much is happening from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m., [and] there is a show until 10:30 or 11 p.m.,” said Saltzman. “Sometimes we get the crowd from the show [to stay for the movie], but a lot are locals and regulars.”

If horror movies are not enticing enough, in two or three weeks, according to Saltzman, there will be a 3-D movie playing. Everyone who comes to the movie will get a pair of 3-D glasses.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

MIDNIGHT MURDERAMA: SUNDAY, NOV. 2

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The Tournées Film Festival 2008

Chantal Richard’s *Lili et le baobab* (2006)
Monday, Nov. 3, 2008 - 7PM
(Columbia College: Cottingham Theatre)
Speaker: Dr. Heather Matthusen, Assistant Professor of
Philosophy, Department of Religion & Philosophy,
Columbia College

Nicolas Klotz’s *La question humaine* (2007)
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008 - 7PM
(Columbia College: Cottingham Theatre)
Speaker: Dr. Ute Wachsmann-Linnan, Associate Professor
and Director of Global Studies, Department of Art,
Columbia College

Danièle Thompson’s *Fauteuils d’orchestre* (2006)
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008 - 7PM
(Columbia College: Cottingham Theatre)
Speaker: Dr. Corinne Mann-Morlet, Assistant
Professor of French, Dept of Modern Languages &
Literatures, Columbia College

S. Pierre Yameogo’s *Delwende : Lève-toi et marche* (2005)
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 - 7PM
(University of SC, Gambrell 153)
Speaker: Dr. Jeanne Garane, Associate Professor &
CPLT Graduate Advisor, Department of Languages,
Literatures and Cultures, University of South Carolina

Ismaël Ferroukhi’s *Le grand voyage* (2004)
Monday, Nov. 24, 2008 - 7PM
(University of SC, Sloane 112)
Speaker: Dr. Jeff Persels, Associate Professor and
Director of the European Studies Program, Department
of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of
South Carolina

The **Tournées Festival** is made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, the Grand Marnier Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, the Franco-American Cultural Fund (with SACEM), the Writers Guild of America, the Directors Guild of America and the Motion Picture Association, Highbrow Entertainment and Agnès B.

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For a full synopses of the films, go to
<http://www.columbiacollegesc.edu/academics/modlang/tournees.asp>

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES You can find a much better way to do a difficult job. Be looking outside the box and asking wise people for input

TAURUS After you and your mate figure out what you want, the shopping part will be easy. If you're not in agreement yet, don't push.

GEMINI An expert can teach you an easier way to achieve your intended results. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Use other people's experience and save yourself time and anguish.

CANCER You may not get a massive task done, but keep working in that direction. It shouldn't be very difficult. It could be kind of fun.

LEO Move the items on your schedule around so you

can have more time for fun. You're especially lucky now. Try out a few of your favorite games. You'll do better than usual.

VIRGO Entertaining at home looks like your best weekend option. You have a few chores that have been stacking up. Maybe your friends will help —stranger things have happened. Wouldn't hurt to ask.

LIBRA Study the situation again from a different angle. If you're working on a painting, turn it upside down. You'll be amazed at what you discover. Unleash your inner imp.

SCORPIO Money's pouring into your pockets. If that's not happening, shift a few things around so it will. For example, get a better job. It's easier now.

SAGITTARIUS You're more confident now, funnier, more willing to play. At the dinner table, you'll have them rolling off their chairs with laughter

CAPRICORN Hold off on travel, even the little doing-errands kind. Take care of cleaning up old messes instead. This weekend will be much better for running around town and country.

AQUARIUS Definitely attend a social gathering tonight. All the surprises will be happy ones, including the tricks you play on others.

PISCES There's a crack in the glass ceiling that's been in between you and your loftiest goals. Push against it now and you're likely to break through.

THE SCENE @USC



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ART BAR HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA
8 p.m., Free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

GORE AND FOLKLORE HALLOWEEN TOURS
7 p.m. and 8 p.m., \$5
SC Confederate Relic Room

MOONLIGHT CEMETERY TOURS
8 p.m., \$5
Elmwood Cemetery

TOMORROW

DIAVOLO, BY THE SINS FELL ANGELS, ENABLE KAIN, WELLS OF ELIM
9 p.m., \$5 Over 21/ \$7 Under
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

ZOMBIE PARTY WITH THE GHOST OF FDR AND SONS OF YOUNG
8 p.m., \$3
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

THE MOVEMENT
8 p.m., \$10
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
8 p.m., \$12
West Columbia Riverwalk Amphitheater

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 10/31/08

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ACROSS

1 Gifts to the needy

5 Forage crop

9 Major hit

14 Quantum event?

15 No. brains?

16 Home of the Rays

17 Vijay Singh's homeland

18 Warmonger

19 Along a rotation line

20 Aviation pioneer

23 PC inserts

25 Impressive!

26 Switch positions

27 Pot cover

28 Not orig.

31 Alt. spelling

33 Aware of

35 Dramatic exit direction

40 Appellations

42 Outer: pref.

43 Pitch woo

44 Do uncredited work

47 Choir voice

48 Mai __ cocktail

49 O'Neal of basketball

51 N.Y.P.D. rank

52 Chapel Hill sch.

55 Sports division, est. 1969

57 Frilled strip

59 Bar mitzvah, e.g.

63 Castle that danced

64 1201

65 Out of round

68 Stop order, asea

69 Custard dessert

70 McEntire sitcom

71 Frequency unit

72 Yin's partner

73 Sketched

DOWN

1 TV alien

2 Floral loop

3 Head steward

4 Richard's Agnew

5 Rifts

6 Fiery gem

7 Ketch's sister

8 Out of kilter

9 George Lucas blockbuster

10 Full-length skirt

11 Pamplona pal

12 Hall-of-fame pitcher Warren

13 Terminates

21 Sch. in Lexington

22 Interlaced

23 Stick

24 Singer Shore

29 Roman way

30 Station lineup

32 Philbin's co-host

34 Cardinal's home

36 Early invader of

Solutions from 10/30/08

R	A	S	H	A	D	A	C	T	S	S	S	T
I	C	E	A	G	E	R	H	E	A	C	H	O
F	U	L	L	O	F	B	E	A	N	S	A	R
						G	R	I	N	S	E	M
O	F	F	S	A	D	A	M	S	A	P	P	L
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						T	B	I	L	L	T	A
B	I	G	T	O	E				E	S	C	H
S	O	U	R	G	R	A	P	E	S	T	A	S
I	D	E	A			R	E	S	T	S		
D	I	S		T	A	K	E	T	H	E	C	A
E	N	T		O	M	I	T		E	X	I	T
S	I	E	S		T	Y	N	E		R	Y	D

Rome

37 Cause of a rush

38 Monopoly buy

39 Govt. security

41 "The Girl from Ipanema" guy

45 Hotspot service

46 Loop or stud

50 On the __ vive

52 Fictional Heep

53 Boldness

54 Unobstructed

56 Cozy

58 Old Calif. training base

60 MIT word

61 Coll. Bruins

62 Use an MRI

66 Justice Fortas

67 Perry Mason's field

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Sudoku By The Mephram Group 10/31/08

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 10/30/08

1	8	6	7	4	2	5	9	3
5	4	7	3	9	6	1	8	2
2	3	9	5	1	8	4	6	7
4	7	2	8	6	5	9	3	1
8	1	3	9	7	4	6	2	5
6	9	5	2	3	1	8	7	4
7	5	4	6	8	3	2	1	9
9	6	1	4	2	7	3	5	8
3	2	8	1	5	9	7	4	6

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TRICK OR TREAT



With Stephen Garcia and Chris Smelley, you never know whether you're getting tricks or treats

Drew Lattier
STAFF WRITER

It's Halloween today, and millions of kids across the nation will take to the streets near sunset in hopes of overflowing a bright orange plastic pumpkin full of candy. The phrase "Trick or treat" will resonate throughout the neighborhood streets until the final door is knocked on in the chilly October night.

Tomorrow, the pumpkin-colored Tennessee Volunteers take the field at Williams-Brice Stadium against the Gamecocks, and this year, Carolina has its own version of Halloween to deal with in the annual matchup.

Eight games into the season, USC coach Steve Spurrier is still flirting with quarterbacks Chris Smelley and the fan favorite Stephen Garcia. Although Spurrier has been criticized on multiple occasions for being fickle in deciding a starting quarterback, the two candidates for the job have both made convincing arguments to earn the starting position throughout the season. By the same token, both Smelley and Garcia have shown obvious areas of weakness that need to be improved. With the two athletes under center, it has been somewhat of a trick-or-treat this season, with either a stellar performance or a so-so outing on a given Saturday.

Starting off: Taking a look at Smelley's performances, the redshirt sophomore looked promising going 5-for-5 in the season opener, throwing for 92 yards and two touchdowns in just

barely over a quarter of play in relief for then-starting quarterback Tommy Beecher.

Receiving the starting slot against Vanderbilt the following week, Smelley played decent but by no means impressive with two interceptions and 23 of 39 passes completed. The quarterback continued to turn in a wide array of performances throughout the early part of the season. For example, Smelley went just 3-for-9 accumulating 44 yards in the UAB game the week before putting on his career day of three touchdowns and 300-plus yards against Ole Miss.

What accounts for the volatile swings in level of play and performance?

"In the games I've played well, we were able to get some guys open, and I was being smart with the football and protecting the ball," Smelley said. "I think that is the main thing, not being careless."

The week after the Gamecocks earned their first SEC victory in 365 days at Ole Miss, the sophomore again fell on hard times the following week against Kentucky. Smelley was unable to ride the momentum from his play the previous week, posting meager numbers before being relieved by Garcia midway through the second half.

"With those games that I haven't done so well it's kind of the opposite. I think I'm trying to do too much and not protect the ball as much as I should," Smelley said. "Sometimes I get a little too aggressive and try and do things when maybe I should just back off and wait another play."

Moving on to Garcia, the young quarterback is still wet behind the ears, but without a doubt he possesses great potential. The redshirt freshman earned his first major playing time of his USC career against UAB, a much-awaited sight for Gamecock fans. Although Garcia put up respectable numbers against UAB, his first glimmer of greatness came in the third

quarter against Kentucky. Called in to take Smelley's position, the freshman threw nearly 200 yards and a touchdown to lead Carolina to an important SEC win.

Garcia again played well against the top-ranked LSU Tigers the next week but was obviously limited in some game situations due to inexperience. Although Garcia has been around Carolina football for a while, the freshman only has one start to his name and not much more game time experience.

"It's all learning for [Garcia], and it was a lot to ask from him to start that game," Spurrier said. "It wasn't a good idea to let him carry that load."

Specifically, Garcia struggles to make quick decisions in the pocket under pressure. The Tigers sent plenty of blitzes across the line that blazed through the USC offensive line in pursuit of the rookie quarterback. Garcia suffered six sacks in the game, some of which could have been avoided by throwing the ball away.

"I didn't call time outs and I got hit way too many times," Garcia said following the game. "That is pretty much my fault."

Smelley was in Garcia's shoes not too long ago and easily relates to his younger teammate's inexperience.

"Obviously there is a learning curve, and it comes with being a quarterback in the SEC, the biggest, fastest conference there is," Smelley said. "Everything happens real quick back there in the pocket, and you just have to learn how to deal with it."

After taking a deeper look at each of the two athletes' performances thus far in the season, it's evident why Spurrier struggles to name a permanent starter. It seems that Garcia's weaknesses of

TRICK OR TREAT ● 5B

Four teams put championship hopes on line

Georgia vs. Florida, Texas vs. Texas Tech, surprising Florida State vs. Georgia Tech games to watch this weekend of college football

Austin Smallwood
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No. 8 Florida vs. No. 6 Georgia in Jacksonville, Fla. 3:30 p.m. CBS

This matchup of SEC foes is essentially the SEC East title game. Both of these teams have distanced themselves from the remainder of the division through high-scoring offenses and opportunistic defenses. This always-passionate rivalry will have even more fire this year after Georgia's mass celebration for a Knowshon Moreno touchdown last year. Florida coach Urban Meyer did not think the charade was in good taste and has all but promised revenge. Both teams are currently ranked in the top 10 after scoring more than 50 points against SEC opponents last week. Florida was able to score on special teams, defense and offense as they beat Kentucky 63-5. Georgia, on the other hand, went down to Louisiana and scored 52 points on the Tigers in Death Valley. With so much speed on both teams, this game should resemble a track meet more than a football game. However, in the end Florida has more speed and is sound in all three phases in the game. Those reasons plus the added anger at Georgia for last year's disrespect will result in a Gator win in Jacksonville.

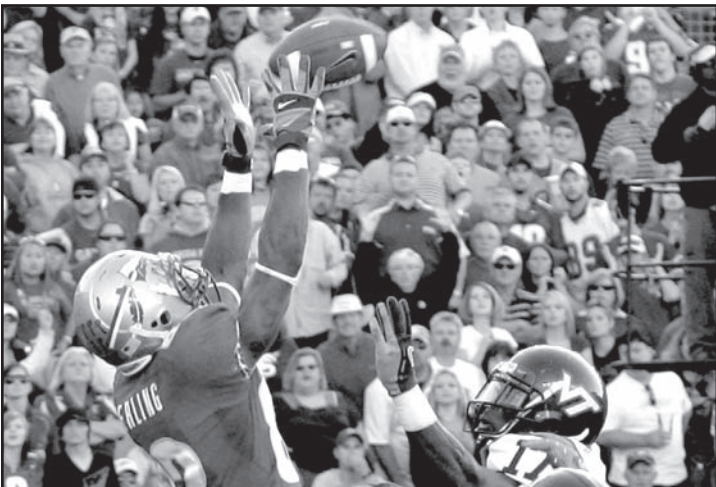
Score: Florida 38 Georgia 27



No. 1 Texas at No. 7 Texas Tech 8 p.m. ABC

There should be no shortage of points in this clash of national championship hopefuls. Both teams have offenses ranked in the top five in the country in points a game. These high-octane offenses are led by two of the best quarterbacks in the country. Colt McCoy is widely believed to be the frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy this season as he has led his team to an undefeated record while completing over 80 percent of his pass attempts. However, Graham Harrell is not far behind Colt McCoy, and a strong performance and a Texas Tech win could put Harrell in the driver's seat. The key to this game will be the ability of these defenses to create pressure on the quarterback in order to disrupt the passing game. If you give either one of these quarterbacks time, they will pick you apart. Texas already has two wins over top 10 teams and is looking to add a third on Saturday. Texas Tech on the other hand has only played one ranked team this season, Kansas. The experience of Texas and McCoy's ability to make plays will ultimately allow Texas to win this Texas-sized shootout.

Score: Texas 52 Texas Tech 45



No. 15 Florida State at Georgia Tech 3:30 p.m. ABC

Perhaps the surprise of the season in the ACC has been the rapid turnaround of the Florida State Seminoles. The past few seasons Florida State has looked slow and predictable, causing many fans to call for Bobby Bowden's resignation. However, the Florida State offense has shown great balance this season with a solid running game and a passing game that minimizes mistakes. The word balance is not one that has been used in regards to Georgia Tech's offense this season. New coach Paul Johnson has successfully introduced his run-happy triple option to the ACC. This offense has proved effective when Georgia Tech has the lead or the game is tied. However, last week when Tech needed a score at the end of the game, their passing game — or lack thereof — was unable to win the game for them. The speed and balance of Florida State should prevail this week as the Seminoles move one step closer to the ACC Championship game.

Score: Florida State 24 Georgia Tech 14



Wisconsin at No. 21 Michigan Noon ESPN

This Big 10 match up pits two teams going in opposite directions. After finding themselves ranked in the top 10 to start the season, Wisconsin has failed to impress anyone as they have struggled against superior competition all season. This once-touted potential National Championship contender is trying its best to maintain a winning record. Michigan State, on the other hand, came out of nowhere and has become the talk of the Big 10. The Spartans were finally able to beat their rival Michigan last week, which they had not done in their last six tries. Michigan State is led by one of the nation's top runners in Javon Ringer. The Spartans have pounded the ball on the ground this season with Ringer and have been very successful doing so. Barring a post-Michigan letdown, expect Michigan State to continue their winning formula as they continue their surprise season and add on to the disappointment that is Wisconsin football.

Score: Michigan State 24 Wisconsin 16



Duke at Wake Forest 3:30 p.m.

These two schools traditionally seem more likely to face each other in an academic bowl than a football game. Wake and Duke have traditionally been viewed as the floor mat of the ACC, but this year both teams are showing that they have some bite. While Wake Forest has been improving over the past few years, the emergence of Duke this season under new coach David Cutcliffe has been a surprise. Cutcliffe should garner some National Coach of the Year votes as his Duke team is in contention for a bowl bid. Cutcliffe has been able to energize an offense that has been — sorry for the pun — offensive the past few seasons. Wake, which was picked by many to be ACC champion this season, has been less than impressive. While Wake Forest was able to defeat Clemson and Florida State on national television, the level of play displayed was less than spectacular. Duke will ultimately prevail in this matchup as the Blue Devils move to just one win away from bowl eligibility.

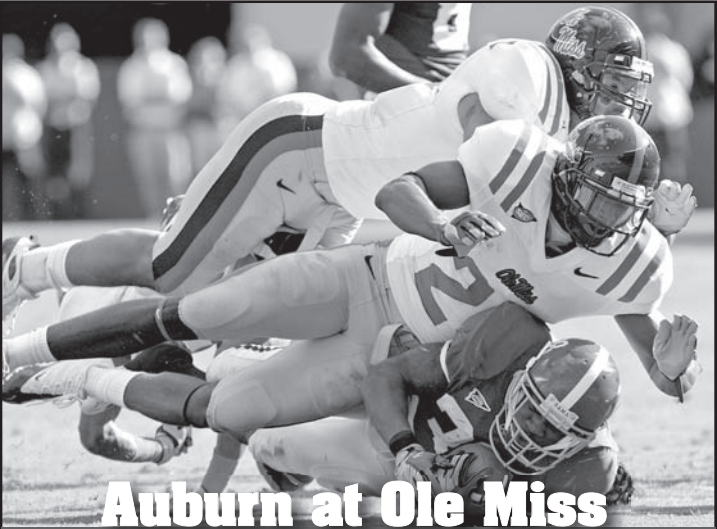
Score: Duke 28 Wake Forest 17



Clemson at Boston College 3:30 p.m. ESPNU

This season cannot get any worse for Clemson, can it? This team that was everyone's darling in the ACC has lost its top 10 ranking, its coach and several recruits to the Gamecocks. The main reason for Clemson's struggles has been the horrific play of their offensive line. Clemson's line has been unable to open up holes for the run game. Even worse has been the way the offensive line of Clemson has let quarterbacks Cullen Harper and Willy Korn stand in the backfield like tackling dummies. The lack of protection by the offensive line has led to injuries to Harper, Korn and C.J Spiller. Boston College will look to exploit this weakness by blitzing early and often. If Clemson is going to turn around their season and have any hope of playing in that bowl on the blue field, then they must win this weekend. However, this result will not occur unless Dabo Swinney has finally taught five linemen for Clemson how to block. Boston College should win convincingly and lock up a bowl bid with their sixth win of the season.

Score: Boston College 31 Clemson 13



Auburn at Ole Miss 2:30 p.m.

This game could very well determine which one of these two teams earns a bowl bid and which one gets to watch all the bowl games. Both teams could characterize their seasons as disappointing but for two very different reasons. Ole Miss's four losses have come by a combined total of 19 points with the largest margin of defeat coming against South Carolina, who won by seven. Auburn, on the other hand, was predicted to finish in the top 10 in the country and win the SEC West. Instead they have been stagnant on offense and have failed to be impressive at any point this season. The key for Ole Miss will be to get out to a big lead since Auburn is incapable of mass-producing offense. If Auburn is to win the game, they need to be dominant on defense and keep the game a low-scoring affair. Ole Miss, led by quarterback Jevan Snead, just has too much firepower for the Tigers to contain as the Rebels make Auburn's season even more miserable.

Score: Ole Miss 21 Auburn 10



Kentucky at Mississippi State 2:30 p.m.

There is a reason why this game is not on national television, and that is because both of these teams are boring to watch. Both feature middle-of-the-road SEC defenses and very predictable, bland offenses. Both teams have lost SEC games this season in which they failed to score a touchdown but managed to score a safety. Kentucky is still shaking their heads after Florida made them look like Gainesville High last weekend in the Swamp. Despite Florida playing walk-ons by the end of the game, Kentucky was still unable to score. Mississippi State is no better. I mean, who can forget their epic 3-2 loss to Auburn? Mississippi State does have the ability to control the clock with their running game, a skill that Kentucky does not currently possess. Mississippi State will run the ball again and again until they have completely run out the clock and escape with a narrow low-scoring victory.

Score: Mississippi State 10 Kentucky 6



West Virginia at No. 25 Connecticut Noon

A loss to both South Florida and Pittsburgh last week suddenly has made the Big East a wide-open conference. Both West Virginia and Connecticut hope to propel themselves to the head of the pack with a win Saturday. West Virginia's offense finally came back from vacation last week as they were able to come from behind and beat Auburn. West Virginia suddenly realized that giving the ball to Noel Devine in space could lead to yards and more importantly points. Connecticut has also been able to stay in contention in the Big East this season with their consistent and productive running attack. Since both teams are among the nation's worst in passing offense, the ability of each of these teams to get their individual running games going will be the key to this contest. West Virginia also has the added edge of their quarterback Pat White being a very explosive runner in space. West Virginia finally got their wake up call last week and look to add to their lead in the Big East with a win Saturday against the Huskies.

Score: West Virginia 34 Connecticut 21

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Culliver ready to lead against weak Vol offense

USC safety found his niche on Carolina defense, looks to continue growth against inexperienced quarterback

Jake Luce
STAFF WRITER

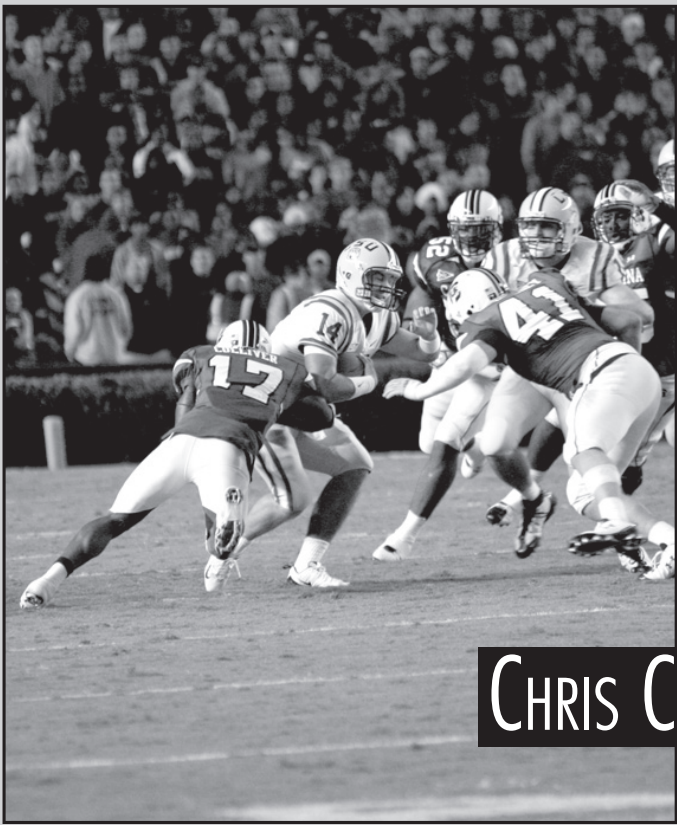
As the defense receives high praise throughout the country for their efforts, some players have fallen under the radar despite consistent contributions each week. Standout players and future NFL hopefuls such as junior strong safety Emanuel Cook, redshirt senior linebacker Jasper Brinkley and junior linebacker Eric Norwood have been constant topics of discussion, but there is one addition to this year's Gamecock defense that has really made a difference. Last season, sophomore safety Chris Culliver was deemed the answer to Sidney Rice's departure, as he was the top recruit and newest offensive threat. Unfortunately, USC coach Steve Spurrier was unable to capitalize on Culliver's abilities because other threats such as former Gamecock Cory Boyd, junior tight end Jared Cook and senior receiver Kenny McKinley were more reliable. Despite proving his elusiveness and leading the team's return yards, Culliver was moved to the defensive side of the ball at safety prior to this season, a position in which he excelled in high school. The young safety was pleased to make the shift to defense as long as it meant more time on the field.

"I just wanted to get the opportunity to play, and I wasn't getting the ball too much on offense," Culliver said. "It's also nice to hit people." Though the learning curve is steep in college, the newest member of the stout defense has shown his ability to improve. "Each week I feel like I'm getting better," Culliver said. "The scheme is getting easier because I know my job and I know what I need to do on the field." With the logistics becoming second nature, the sophomore safety can let his God-given athleticism do the work on the field. Through eight games in the season, Culliver is ranked sixth on the team with 30 total tackles, only nine behind second place. His stats have consistently improved as he tallied a career high nine tackles against LSU and snagged two interceptions against Kentucky the week before. "The two picks felt pretty good. I almost had another one," Culliver said. "I'm just trying to make plays for our defense." Culliver has also contributed with receiving kickoffs. With over 400 yards already this season, he is the team's leading return man for the second straight season. As the Gamecocks take the field this weekend against a sputtering Tennessee team,

they understand that it is still SEC competition and any letdown could lead to a potential loss. The Volunteer offense is currently led by unproven sophomore quarterback Nick Stephens, who has started the last four games. Though inexperienced, Stephens earned his job because he has not been turning the ball over. He has thrown four touchdowns in the four games with no interceptions. The offense has not been too impressive with Stephens at the helm as the Volunteers beat Northern Illinois and Mississippi State while losing the important SEC games to Georgia and Alabama. Culliver and the Gamecocks know that if they want to ensure victory this weekend, they must still play to their potential. "Like coach has been telling us, they are pretty down right now, but that doesn't give us the go-ahead to lighten up," Culliver said. "We have to keep it on them, blitz the young quarterback and do a lot of things defensively to come out with the win."

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

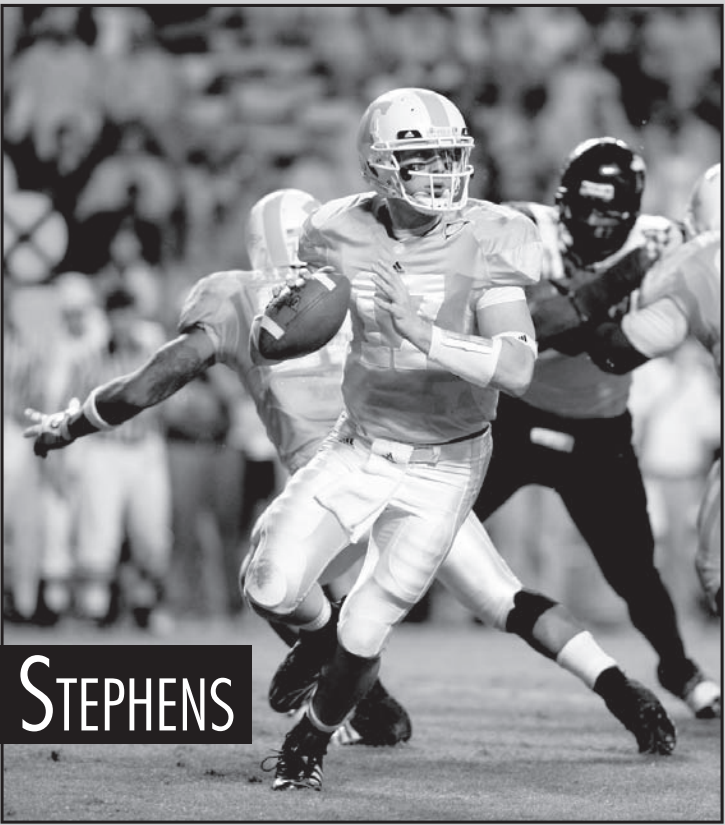
HEAD 2 HEAD



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

DEFENSE

CHRIS CULLIVER VS. NICK STEPHENS



Courtesy of Tennessee Media Relations

GAMECOCKS IN THE NFL

Lance Laury fulfilling gridiron dreams in Seattle with pro franchise

Michael Aguilar
SPORTS EDITOR

Williams-Brice Stadium is a place of release for many. Fans, young and old, flock to the stadium on Saturdays in the fall to cheer on the Gamecocks against some of the stiffest competition in the nation. It's because of these fans that Williams-Brice is always in the discussion when someone starts talking about the best places to watch college football. Now, imagine growing up underneath the shadow of Williams-Brice, hearing the thunder of the stadium on those brisk fall Saturdays, seeing the jerseys worn around Columbia, seeing famous faces on the front page. Such was the life for a young Lance Laury. Laury's grandfather lived

within earshot of the Williams-Brice, and as he grew up he imagined that one day he would be the one bringing those fans to their feet. "I was a Carolina fan growing up," Laury remembers. "My grandfather stayed across the street from the stadium on Bluff Road. I used to always go over there and listen to the crowd roar, and that was something that I wanted to do growing up, was play football for the Gamecocks." Growing up, Laury heard names like Marty Dye and Joe Reeves, both former Gamecock greats, and aspired to one day take the field wearing garnet and black. It would not be long before that dream was realized. Laury graduated from Lower Richland High School in 2000 and was named to the all-conference team for both his junior and senior year. There was never really a question of what Laury would do after high school.

He was headed to South Carolina. However, when Laury arrived at USC in the fall of 2000 he did not immediately see the field. He spent his first year learning the ins and outs of college football under the guise of a redshirt. He watched Kalimba Edwards and Kenneth Harney wreak havoc side by side in the SEC. "I didn't really play that much because of Kalimba Edwards and Sheldon Brown and everybody there," Laury said. "My coach sat me down and told me he wouldn't play me much." Even though Laury spent his first year riding the pine, that year turned out to be very beneficial to the young linebacker. After his redshirt was up, Laury stepped into the gap in the defense and quickly became a primetime performer for the Gamecocks. He led the way for a defense that carried Carolina to a 9-3 record and a second-consecutive Outback Bowl victory. On top of the team accolades, Laury earned some national recognition of his own. Laury earned a spot on the Sporting News SEC All-Freshman and Freshman All-American squads. "During my redshirt freshman year, I got in and I started and I started

learning things," Laury said. "We had a family. We had a good time out there." The next three years would not be as easy for Laury. The Gamecocks would see two losing seasons in his sophomore and junior year, culminating in a coaching change prior to Laury's senior year. All of this while Laury was slowly but steadily losing playing time. "[The coaching change] didn't really affect my game," Laury said. "Coach Holtz plays old-school, he's into tackling and everything. So it was already fundamentally

there, it was just a different system." Laury also refused to be disheartened by his dwindling playing time. Bothered by a sore knee during his junior and senior year, Laury came out in 2005 without much pro hype. However, he took it upon himself to make sure his professional dreams were fulfilled. "I did my best that I could, and I was hoping that someone would give me a chance," Laury said. "While I was in school my senior year, I made a highlight tape. I did it by myself. I sat there and used plays that I had my freshman, sophomore, junior and senior year. One

of the coaches watched it and sent it off to teams, and when I came out Seattle called me and gave me a chance." Now Laury, in his third year in the NFL, is firmly planted on the Seahawk roster and is a consistent contributor for Seattle's special teams. Ahead of him is a bright future. However, equal him is something of equal importance to the native South Carolinian, an education and five years at the school that he loved ever since he first heard the cheers of the Carolina nation as a young boy.

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Cook continues to lead offense's air game

Jared Cook creates mismatches, lines up against talented Tennessee safety Eric Berry in crucial matchup

Sam Davis
STAFF WRITER

The South Carolina Gamecocks face yet another must-win game this Saturday night as they host the struggling 3-5 Tennessee Volunteers in an SEC East matchup. In order to secure a victory, USC will undoubtedly have to jump start its offense, which has been inconsistent the entire season and played a major role in three conference losses. Looking to help the team do so is junior tight end Jared Cook.

The 6'5" 242-pound junior leads the team in both receptions and yards with 31 and 460 respectively. With such a rare combination of size and speed (he runs a 4.37 40-yard dash), Cook poses a problem for any defense. Yet there may be some unexpected obstacles for Jared Cook and the Carolina offense on Saturday night.

Cook's lingering foot injury kept him out of practice earlier in the week. On Wednesday, however, he was able to participate in practice and afterward stated that he was ready to go.

"Today I did some blocking and some catching, and I felt pretty good out there," the

Suwanee, Ga., native said. "I think I'm 99.9 percent."

Yet besides the injury that seems to have finally been left behind, USC coach Steve Spurrier's run-and-gun offense faces a more substantial obstacle, and he wears No. 14 in orange. Sophomore safety Eric Berry of the Volunteers has been wreaking havoc upon opposing offenses since he first began seeing the field.

Last year, as a true freshman, Berry intercepted five passes and returned one for a 96-yard touchdown. This year he has already amounted five interceptions as well as a return for a touchdown. Berry boasts a career average of over 40 yards per return after every interception — earning himself the unofficial yet nearly unanimous title of the Volunteers' most exciting player.

Last year, when USC traveled to Tennessee, the mighty ranked Gamecocks certainly did not intimidate the freshman. He nearly singlehandedly won the game for the Vols with a game-changing interception and fumble recovery (which was returned 46 yards and led to a Volunteer touchdown).

Yet Berry will certainly have his hands full with C o o k , w h o matches his speed

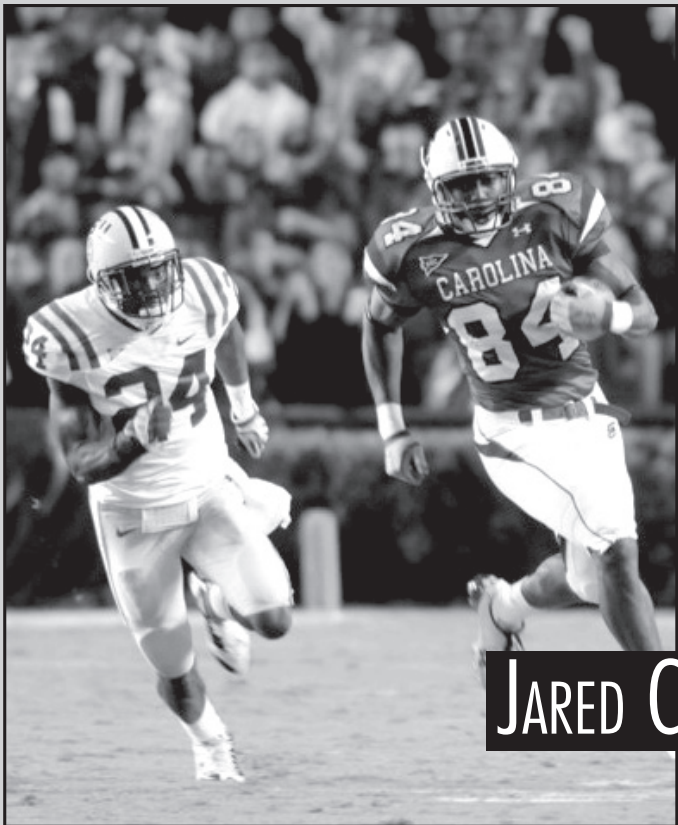
but stands five inches taller than the safety and outweighs him by 40 pounds.

Cook's presence is perhaps most crucial in the red zone. His overpowering size should make him a great target in the end zone for USC quarterbacks. Obviously, that's where Spurrier's struggling offense needs it the most. This season, the Gamecocks have been able to score a touchdown only 58 percent of the times they were inside the 20-yard line. A contributing factor to this problem could be the fact that Cook has only caught one touchdown pass all season — and that was in the first game of the year. Cook certainly needs to be available in the end zone for USC if the team is planning on getting a W this weekend.

The Carolina offense has experienced several problems this season, but Cook has the potential to solve several of them. Getting him the ball should rank among the top priorities of whichever quarterback is under center for the majority of the upcoming game.

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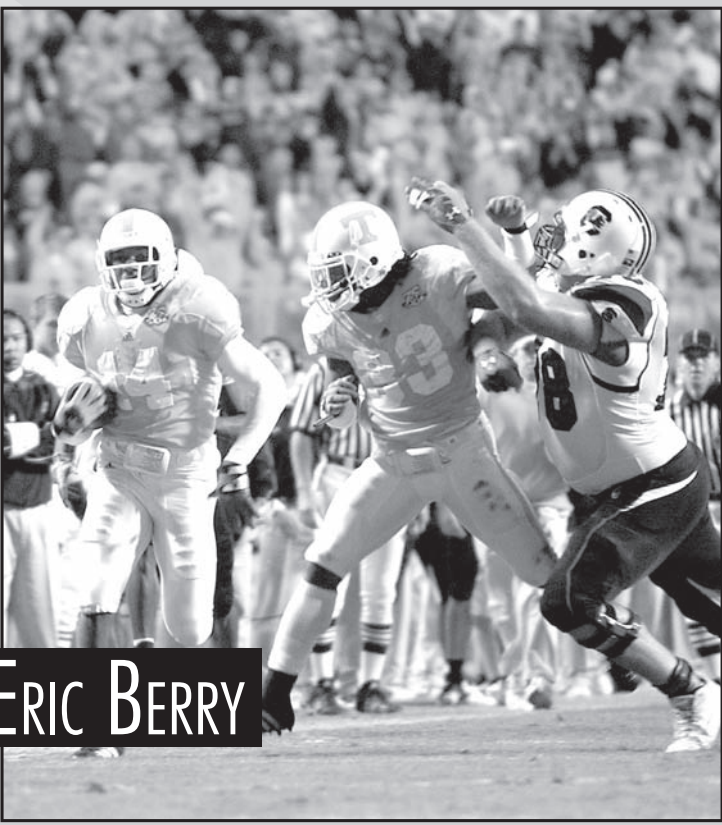
HEAD 2 HEAD



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

JARED COOK

VS.



ERIC BERRY

Courtesy of Tennessee Media Relations

5 Questions with Jake Broom

Is this Phil Fulmer's last season as Tennessee's head coach?

Tennessee enters this game with a record of 3-5. A loss to Carolina means a 6-6 season at best for UT, and the Tennessee legislature is scrambling to fund a government bailout for Knoxville-area buffets if Fulmer is let go. I hope the guy stays. Very few people do less with more than Phillip Fulmer.



JAKE BROOM
Second-year graduate student

large group of students started missing games and keeping their tickets — an effort to demonstrate their displeasure with the direction of the Tennessee program and the student ticket fee. The number has grown as the season has progressed, and now Tennessee's home games have had as many as 15,000-20,000 empty seats.

Will the Cocky Cloth return?

Not only did the Cocky Cloths look good on TV, they were also great for other things, like wiping up mysterious substances in the seats or hitting the person behind you in the eye (Thanks, girl in front of me). There should be more passed out this week. Don't get me wrong — I love them — I'll just remember to wear a welding mask to the game this time.

Will security let people leave the student section?

During the LSU game, security completely locked down the student section. For a while nobody could enter or exit (even to go to the bathroom). My friends asked why, and one of the police officers said the crowd was creating a fire

hazard.

First of all, the entire stadium is made up of concrete, steel and aluminum. What exactly are they worried about burning? When giant slabs of concrete start spontaneously combusting, then we'll worry about fire escape routes. Plus, is there any doubt that Williams-Brice can empty quickly? Trust me, I was at the 63-17 game. Getting out of the stadium in a hurry is no problem for our fans.

Second of all, if you're worried about the overcrowding, why not make the family of five that always ends up sitting beside me in the student section leave? How do they get in anyway? The guards at the entrances check my student ID like they think I'm smuggling cocaine across the border, yet these people stroll in the student section and then complain because we never sit down. Here's a fresh plan for you: Instead of limiting the number of times I can go to the bathroom, how about keeping the Brady Bunch from taking over the student section?

TRICK OR TREAT ● 5

inexperience and errant decisions in the pocket are all areas where Smelley is stronger. Likewise, Garcia brings excitement to the drowsy offense and clearly has the upper hand in his ability to throw downfield passes.

This year for the Gamecocks, the team might just have to settle for two quarterbacks instead of one man to take the job, and Spurrier likes the idea.

"There's nothing wrong with playing two quarterbacks. LSU plays with two and won a national championship [last season] playing with two," Spurrier said. "We can play with two."

It's a trick-or-treat decision, and Gamecocks fans will just have to hope that the Halloween basket has a win against Tennessee inside when the night is over.

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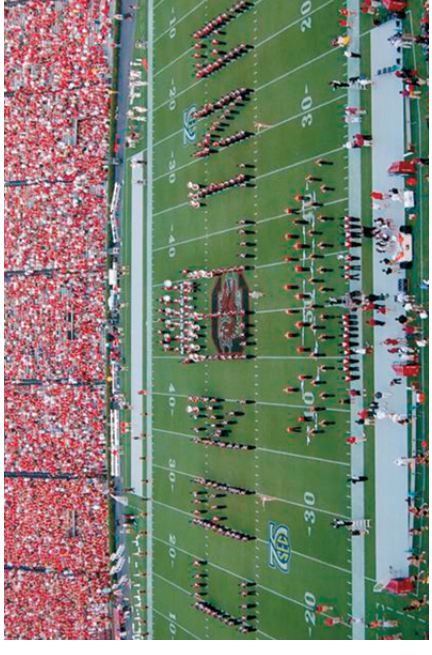
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Kentucky at Miss. State	Miss. State	Kentucky	Miss. State	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
Florida vs. Georgia	Florida	Georgia	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Florida State at Ga. Tech	Florida State	Ga. Tech	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
Clemson at Boston College	Boston College	Boston College	Clemson	Boston College	Boston College	Boston College
Duke at Wake Forest	Duke	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Duke	Wake Forest
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